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**Wisconsin Women's Council**

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### **Inaugural Recipients of ConnectWI Recognition Program Announced**

Seven Wisconsin municipalities recognized for providing easy access to online information on local public officials and open meetings.

July 15, 2015 (Madison) — Three Wisconsin villages and four cities have been selected as the first municipalities recognized by ConnectWI – a new statewide local government website transparency program from the Wisconsin Women's Council, in partnership with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association. Connect WI was established to shine a spotlight and promote promising practices in website transparency from local governments across Wisconsin.

“This first group of local governments recognized by ConnectWI demonstrate how, when done well, web site transparency is a tremendous resource for the public and opens doors for constituents to better know and engage with their public officials,” said Christine Lidbury, executive director of the Women's Council. “We hope they will serve as resource to local governments at all levels to identify best practices, new ideas and even simple changes that add up to greater transparency.”

ConnectWI recognizes county, city, village, town and school district websites that fulfill a 10-point checklist aimed at promoting transparency. Websites that excel beyond the basic criteria are awarded a gold designation.

Municipalities recognized through the first round of ConnectWI certifications include the cities of Appleton, Eau Claire, River Falls and Waupaca and the villages of Deforest, Kronenwetter and Weston. Appleton, Eau Claire, River Falls, Waupaca, Deforest and Weston will receive gold designations.

Applications for ConnectWI recognition are continuously accepted, with recognitions announced quarterly throughout the year. Units of local government are encouraged to apply at [womenscouncil.wi.gov/ConnectWI](http://womenscouncil.wi.gov/ConnectWI). The next round of recognitions will be announced on Oct. 15.